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Regarding the execution of linked operations, if household electric appliances are not connected to a home network or do not have other household electric appliances to be linked thereto even in connection with a home network, linked operations are not set and household electric appliances are individually operated. Taking air conditioners for example, if an air conditioner is not connected to a home network or even in connection with a home network, wherein the other household electric appliances are appliances such as a facsimile and a video tape recorder which are not related with the operations thereof, the air conditioner is individually operated regardless of the home network. Then, a user of the air conditioner controls switching and power level thereof, or the air conditioner is controlled under a program set by the user in its built-in timer.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add claims 13-40 as follows:

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13. (New) A method of controlling an appliance in a home network system for controlling a plurality of appliances, the method comprising:

maintaining in a first appliance, condition information about the appliance and setting information for communicating the condition information to a second appliance; and

transmitting from the first appliance, the condition information to the second appliance in accordance with the communication settings.

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14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the setting information comprises first timing information indicating communication of the condition information upon every change in the condition information or second timing information indicating periodic communication of the condition information.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the setting information comprises information indicating presence or absence of at least one of the first and second timing information.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the setting information comprises information about a time interval of the periodic communication.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the setting information comprises information about an address of a receiver.

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18. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the setting information comprises information about a time interval of the periodic communication.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the setting information comprises information about an address of an informed system-connected object.

20. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the setting information comprises information about a time interval of the periodic communication.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the setting information comprises information about an address of an informed system-connected object.

22. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the setting information includes information about an address of an informed system-connected object.

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23. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the setting information includes information about an address of an informed system-connected object.

24. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the setting information includes information about an address of an informed system-connected object.

25. (New) A method of controlling a first appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances comprising a first appliance and a second appliance, the method comprising:

maintaining condition information in the first appliance,
and

transmitting predetermined data to the second appliance when the condition information meets designated transmitting conditions.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein information about the transmitting conditions comprises first information about a transmission designation indicating that transmission is made for every change in the condition information, and second information about a transmission designation indicating that transmission is made to a broadcast address or to a specific address.

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27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the information about the transmitting conditions comprises information about a receiver.

28. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein information about the transmitting conditions comprises a transmission designation indicating that transmission is made periodically, information about a time interval for transmission, and information about a transmission designation indicating that transmission is made to a broadcast address or

to a specific address.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the information about the transmitting condition includes information about a receiver.

30. (New) A method of controlling a second appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances comprising a first appliance and a second appliance, the method comprising:

receiving and maintaining in a second appliance, data transmitted from the first appliance; and

self-controlling by the second appliance in accordance with the data.

31. (New) A method of controlling a second appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances comprising a first appliance and a second appliance, the method comprising:

receiving in a second appliance, data transmitted from the first appliance;

linking between second and first appliances based on the

received data; and

storing information in the second appliance, about the first appliance upon linkage with the first appliance.

32. (New) A method of setting conditions for transmission of data about a first appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances comprising the first appliance and a second appliance, the method comprising:

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transmitting demand information from a first appliance for querying presence or absence of the second appliance, wherein the first appliance is for controlling the second appliance by a communication linkage;

receiving in the first appliance, response information transmitted by the second appliance in response to the demand information transmitted by the first appliance; and

transmitting by a first appliance, a setting demand to the second appliance for causing the second appliance to set transmitting conditions, when the response information does not include information about the second appliance transmitting conditions, or when transmitting conditions are not set.

~~33. (New) An appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances, comprising:~~

~~condition control means for maintaining attribute information indicating a condition of the appliance;~~

~~setting information maintenance means for maintaining setting information designating a transmission method for every piece of the attribute information; and~~

~~attribute transmission means for transmitting the attribute information to another appliance, in accordance with the setting information.~~

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~~34. (New) A first appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances comprising a first appliance and a second appliance, the first appliance comprising:~~

~~condition control means for maintaining a condition of the first appliance;~~

~~means for maintaining transmitting conditions information for transmission to another appliance; and~~

~~data transmission means for transmitting a predetermined data to the second appliance when the first appliance meets the transmitting conditions.~~

35. (New) An appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances, comprising:

reception means for receiving data transmitted from another appliance;

conditions maintenance means for maintaining interlock conditions for interlock with another appliance; and

interlock control means for performing interlock control on the appliance when the received data meets the interlock conditions.

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36. (New) An appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting demand information for querying presence or absence of another appliance to be linked with the appliance;

reception means for receiving response information transmitted from said another appliance in response to the demand information; and

conditions setting demand means for transmitting a setting demand to said another appliance for setting transmitting conditions, when the response information does not include

information about the transmitting conditions for transmission to the appliance, or when information about the transmitting conditions is not set.

37. (New) The appliance according to claim 36, wherein the transmitting conditions indicate conditions for said another appliance to transmit data to the appliance, the data indicating an operating condition of said another appliance.

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38. (New) The appliance according to claim 37, further comprising a linked control means for performing a linked operation in accordance with data about an operating condition of said another appliance, the data being transmitted from said another appliance.

39. (New) An appliance in a home bus system for controlling a plurality of appliances, comprising:

reception means for receiving demand information from another appliance, the demand information querying presence or absence of another appliance to be operated in linkage with the appliance;

conditions maintenance means for maintaining information

about transmitting conditions for linkage with said another appliance;

search means for searching for the information about transmitting conditions for linkage with the appliance from the conditions maintenance means; and

transmission means for transmitting response information comprising the information about transmitting conditions, in response to the demand information.

40. (New) The appliance according to claim 39, further comprising an operation condition data control means for maintaining an operating condition, wherein

the appliance is for transmitting an operating condition of the appliance to another appliance, in accordance with the transmitting conditions.
